

October 21, 2011

Weekly Views

Deputy Commissioner Randy Koester presented a check for \$10,255.82 to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) during ICADV's 29th Annual Fall Conference. Various IDOC staff members, offenders, and facility programs, such as the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) units, helped raise money for this important cause.

Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman visited the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility to deliver the keynote address during a GED graduation ceremony. Twenty-five students donning blue caps and gowns celebrated their high school graduation from Logansport's

Vantage Pointe Learning Center, joining 413 other juvenile offenders who have earned their GEDs at Logansport since 2007. "You've achieved something that others in your situation have not," Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman told the graduates during her keynote address. Two students passed with honors. One graduate had already been released but returned to attend the graduation ceremony.

The Indianapolis District#3 and District#1 Parole Offices, in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Department Sex and Violent Offender Unit, participated in an initiative to monitor Marion County sex offender compliance for registry responsibility and conditions of parole. Positive contact was made with more than 50 paroled sex offenders and 15 arrests were made for new charges related to registration responsibility. Marion County officials were complimentary of parole staff's dedication and professionalism throughout this project and willingness to go the extra mile.

A total of eleven teams competed in the IDOC 2nd Annual Softball Tournament. The winning team was "Warning Shot" from Putnamville Correctional Facility. Lyndie Alspaugh from the Putnamville team was named MVP. Executive Director Richard Curry presented plaques to the winners. A fun day was had by all!

The Correctional Industrial Facility's (CIF) FIDO Program received its 100th dog from the Anderson Animal Shelter. The FIDO program, which stands for Faith + Inmates + Dogs = Opportunity, has found forever homes for 85 abandoned unwanted dogs since the program began in September 2008. FIDO partners the dogs with two offender handlers, whose jobs are to socialize the dogs and teach basic obedience in order to make them more adoptable. It's a win-win situation for both the dogs and the inmates. CIF currently has 15 dogs up for adoption.

Approximately 60 PLUS graduates attended a presentation by Brooks Douglass, whose personal story of victimization and forgiveness has been told in the movie, Heaven's Rain. As an Oklahoma State Senator, Mr. Douglas authored and worked to pass numerous crime rights' bills and laws, including the Oklahoma Victims' Bill of Rights, which dramatically changed the state criminal justice system. He also worked to pass laws regulating rights to restitution; confidentiality of victim information; rights of victims to attend all court proceedings; rights to be informed of case status; and right of victims to attend the execution of their loved one's convicted killer.

The Wabash Valley Community Advisory Board learned that a new solar project is already saving close to 24 percent in terms of natural gas usage. Solar panels are being used in one cell house to help heat water for offender showers. Physical Plant Director Roger Dagley said the new system, which went hot earlier this year, is virtually maintenance free!

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) successfully completed the ACA Re-Accreditation Audit. The facility earned a 100% on mandatory and 99.3% on non-mandatory standards. During the exit interview, the auditors praised PNJCF staff for their hospitality, professionalism and knowledge. The PNJCF Auxiliary Committee provided a celebratory breakfast for all staff for this accomplishment.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) celebrated the graduation of 248 offender students. A traditional ceremony with guest speakers, refreshments and family reflected the cooperative re-entry efforts among WCC, Ivy Tech and the offenders. 194 offenders received their GED and 54 earned a Career Technical Certificate.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility sadly reports the passing of facility K-9 Baron. Baron provided approximately six years of faithful service to the facility in the capacity of an aggression canine. K-9 personnel and all staff at the facility are grieving the passing of this "fallen soldier".

Family Youth and Community Development Program representative Charles Miles and Carrie Cox from Putnam County Family Support Services were the recipients of a donation from the Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS program. During a presentation ceremony arranged by PLUS Coordinator Karumathil Kumaran, a check in the amount of \$1,250 was presented to each representative by a PLUS offender.

The Indiana State Prison conducted interviews resulting in seven staff promotions. Staff promotions include: Corine Hollihan, Administrative Secretary 2, Lauren Crohan and Ashley Moelich, Correctional Caseworkers 4, Tracy Hall, Correctional Release Assistant 4, and John Connelly, Nicholas Henry and Anthony Neal, Correctional Sergeants. Congratulations to all and good luck in their new assignments!

Staff from the Mexican Consulate visited with the Mexican National offender population at New Castle Correctional Facility.